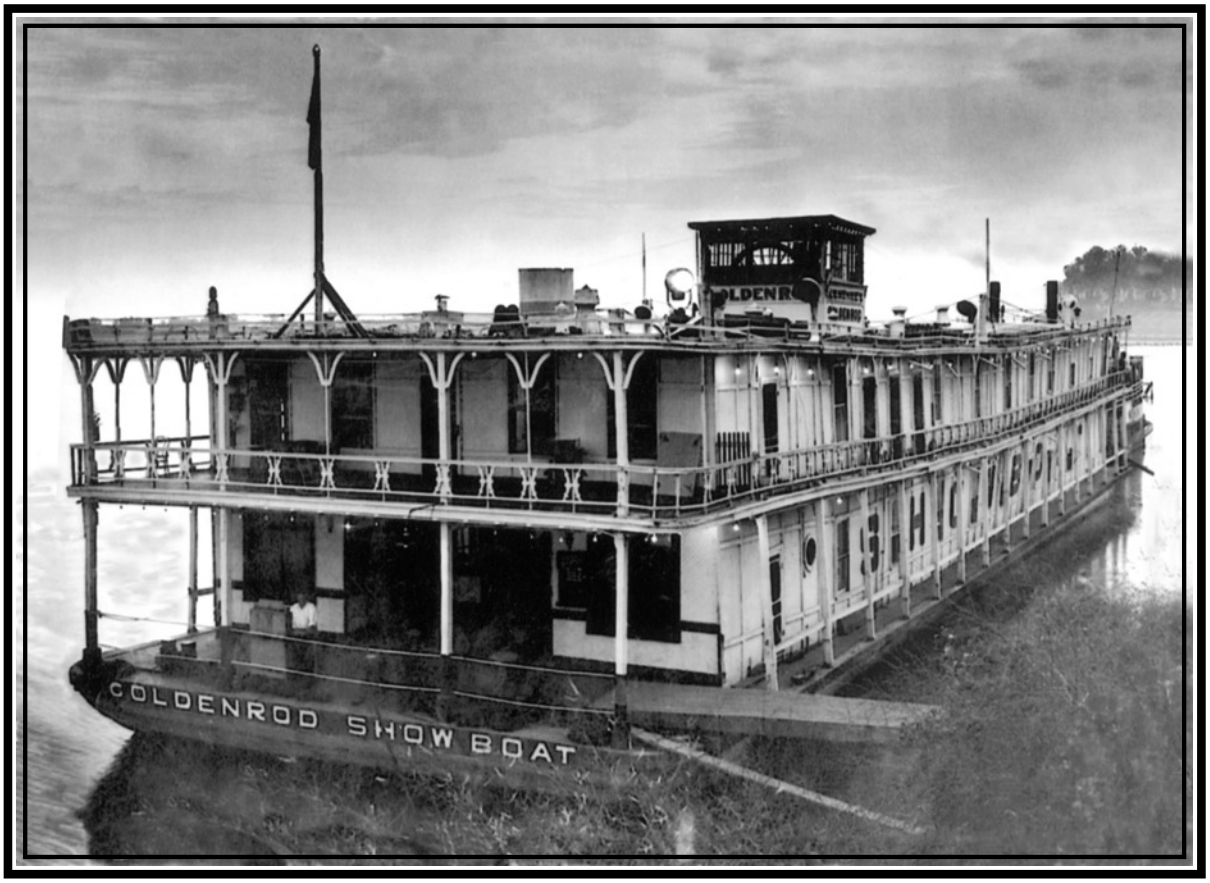
The GoldenrodShowboat Photo Album



Decades of memorabilia were saved by Don Franz, with notations by him for the 100th Anniversary of The Goldenrod which also marked 50 years for The St. Louis Ragtimers. Most of these images were scanned by Don for his Powerpoint presentation at the Sheldon Concert hall commemorating the Anniversaries. This book was assembled by Robert Whiteside.

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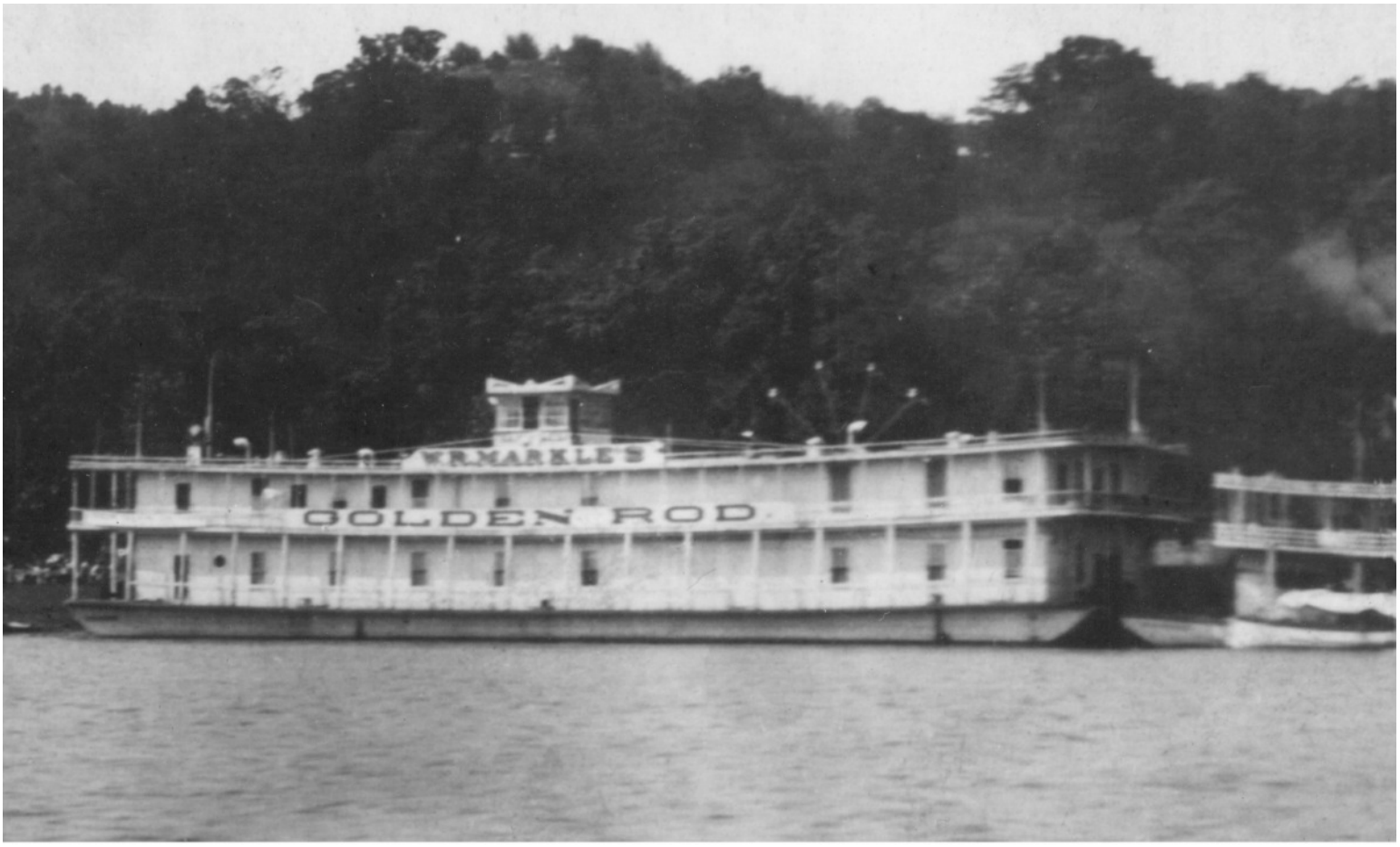
These photos appear approximately in chronological order.



1910 - Goldenrod's First year on the Mississippi. Hamburg IL

1932 - Goldenrod early St. Louis mooring

1922 - Capt French's (5th) 'New Sensation'
In drydock for wooden hull maintenance.

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Show Boat Golden Rod

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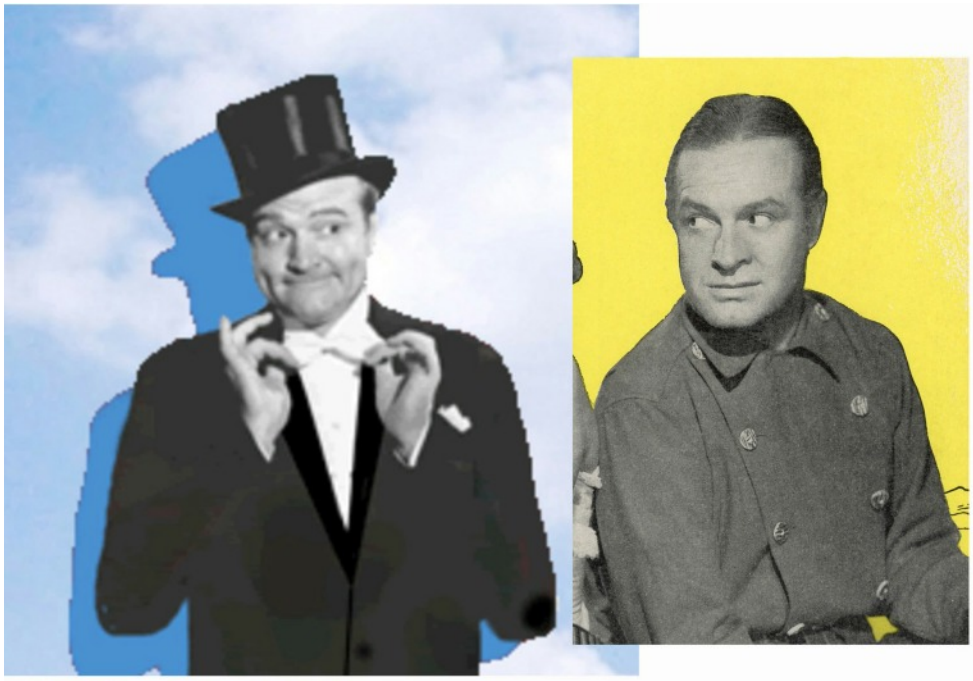
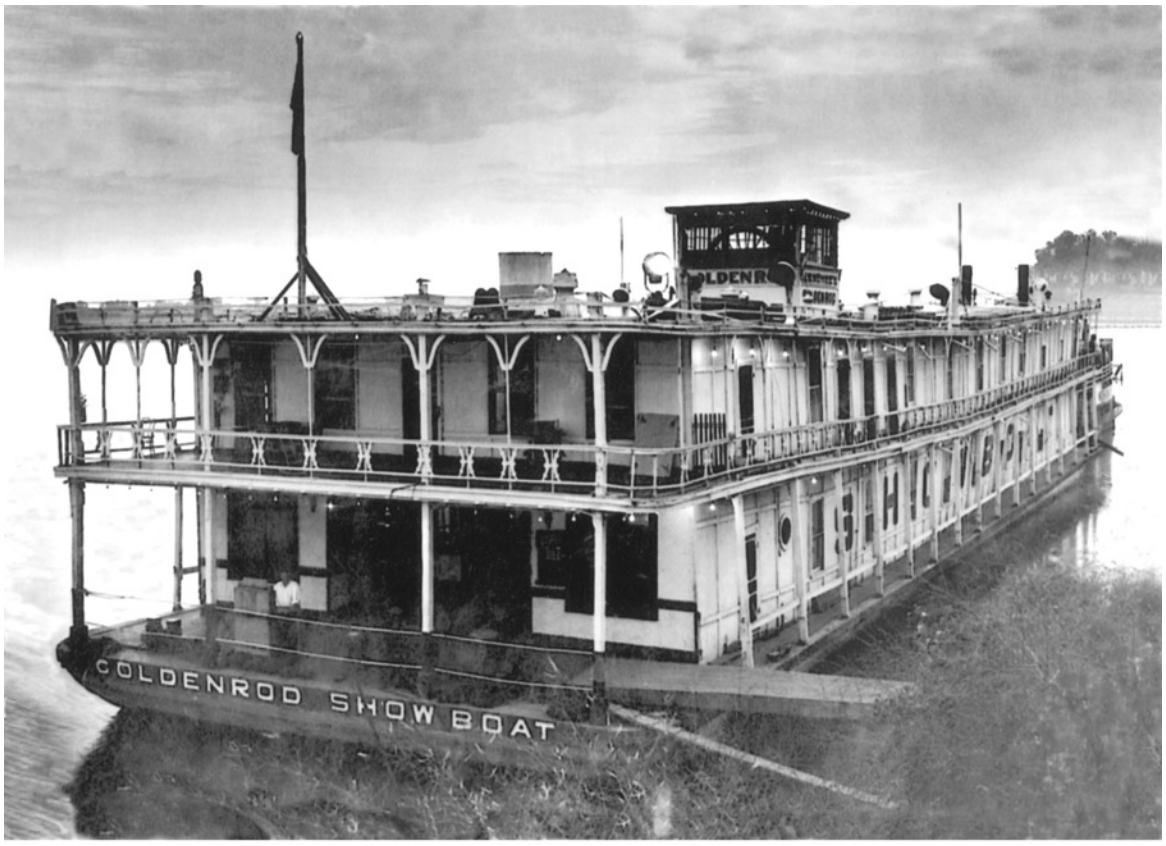
1938 - Goldenrod, first year in St. Louis



1930's - Capt Menke:

* Hires Red Skelton, as a DECK-HAND !
* Features Bob Hope on a Missouri River tour.

1937 - Blanche Forbes joins Team in St Louis



1937 - Last Stop before St Louis (Herculaneum, MO)

1939 - Goldenrod Melodrama

"The Convict's Daughter"

Where All Good Showboats Go

The Menke Brothers

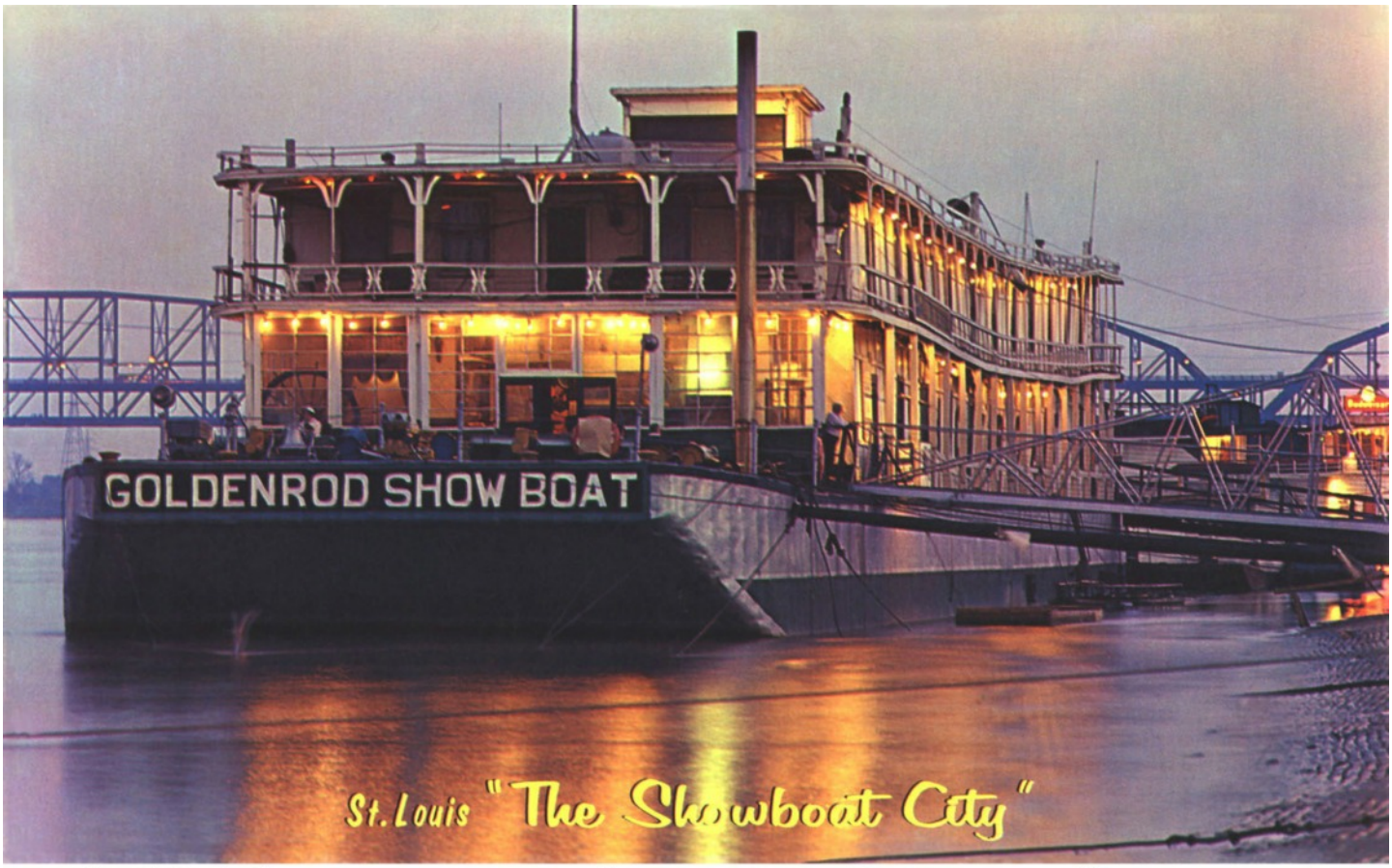
Sooner or later, most of the big showboats came into the hands of the Menke boys. The New Sensation (French's last boat), the Greater New York (formerly the New Grand Floating Palace, Markle's first love and Price's "beautiful thing"), the Sunny South (for a while called the Hippodrome), the Hollywood (formerly Steve Price's Columbia), the Dixie Queen (that nostalgic gesture of Al Cooper), and the palatial Goldenrod (Markle's last dream) all eventually tied up at the Menke dock. All these great boat-shows at the end of the story are gathered together as the summary of an old book.

There were four of these Menke brothers–
-John William (Bill), H. J. (Harry), B. F. (Ben), and C. J. (Charley).

Harry Charley Ben Bill

1951 - Goldenrod Showboat Family Reunion

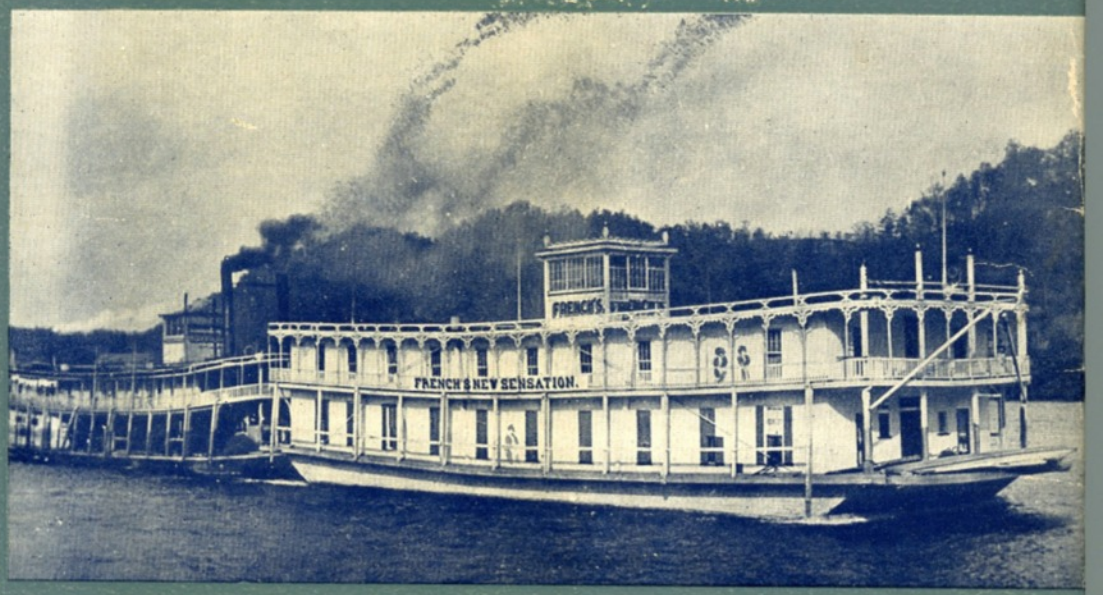
1949 - Goldenrod's longest running show (Hamlet)
< notice the 1947 steel hull >



1951 - St. Louis Riverfront

SHOWBOATS

The History of an American Institution



BY

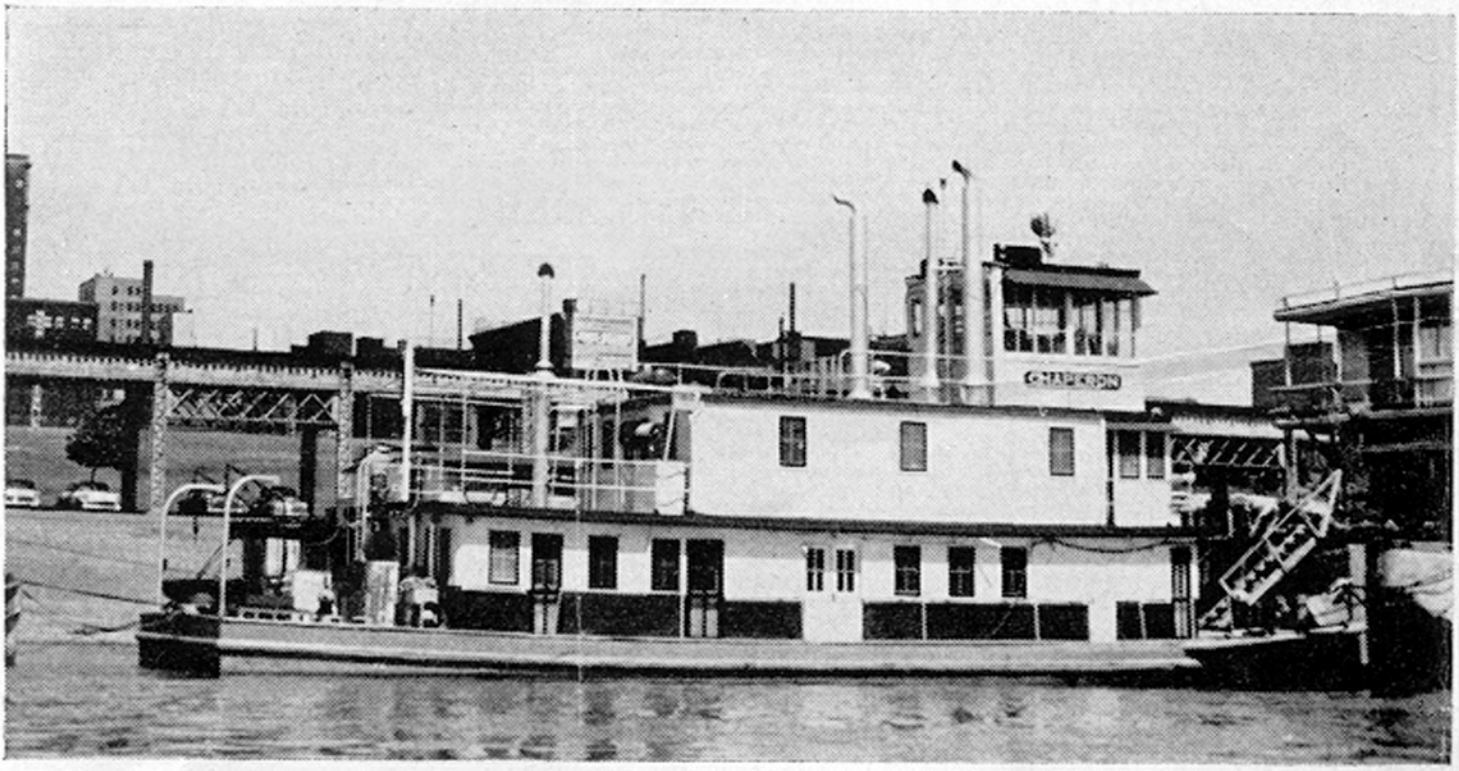
Philip Graham

1951 - Best book on SHOWBOATS

1957 - Admiral, Goldenrod, Delta Queen

1960 - Admiral, Goldenrod, Delta Qeen

May Chaperon Showboat's Last Trip

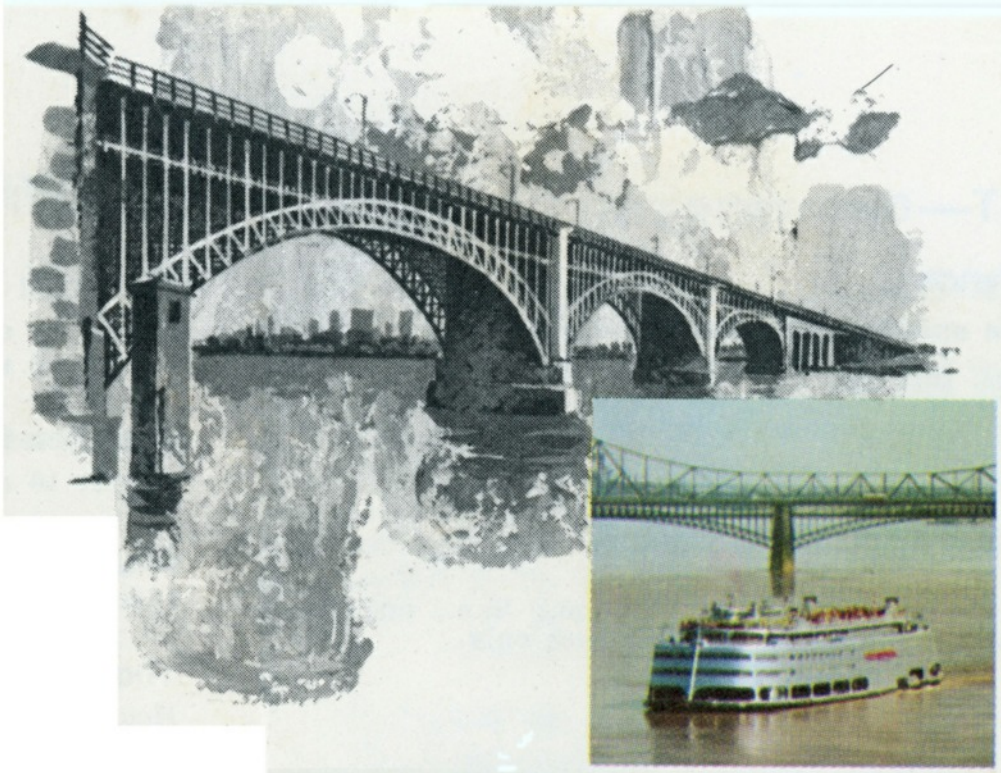


The latest Chaperon for the Goldenrod showboat at St. Louis is shown above on the city's riverfront, following recent completion of interior and exterior painting under the supervision of Capt. William J. Menke, owner of the craft and operator of the famed St. Louis showboat.

The 300 hp. craft, 85 by 24½ by five feet and powered by two Fairbanks-Morse Diesel engines, was built, in 1935, by the Dubuque Boat and Boiler Company, of Dubuque, Iowa. The steel hull vessel served the U. S. Engineers, as the Sergeant Pryor, on the Missouri River before being sold last year to Ray Logsdon, of Beardstown, Ill., who subsequently sold it to Capt. Menke.

The former survey boat contains seven rooms, with accommodations for a crew of 14, and is equipped with power steering. It is the fourth vessel —but the only Diesel—to bear the Chaperon name under Capt. Menke's ownership. The veteran showboat owner is currently laying plans to make "one final trip" with the Goldenrod and Chaperon next spring.

1957 - Menke's towboat 'Chaperon' ready to make 'one final trip'.



St. Louis has been a busy world port ever since the first steamboat tied up at the levee in 1817. From its river landings boats and barges ply thousands of miles of inland waterways.

Here rocks the *Admiral*, an all steel, air conditioned, five deck river steamer that carries 4000 passengers downstream and back, twice a day. Here too floats the *Goldenrod*, presenting food, drink and live melodrama.

Both lie in the shelter of the graceful arches of Eads Bridge, the first to span the broad Mississippi, dedicated after the Civil War, in 1874, to link forever the east and the west.

1952 - Saint Louis: Three Major Attractions

Can Alumni Partners Find Happiness As Skippers Of Prosperous and Titled Old River Showboat?

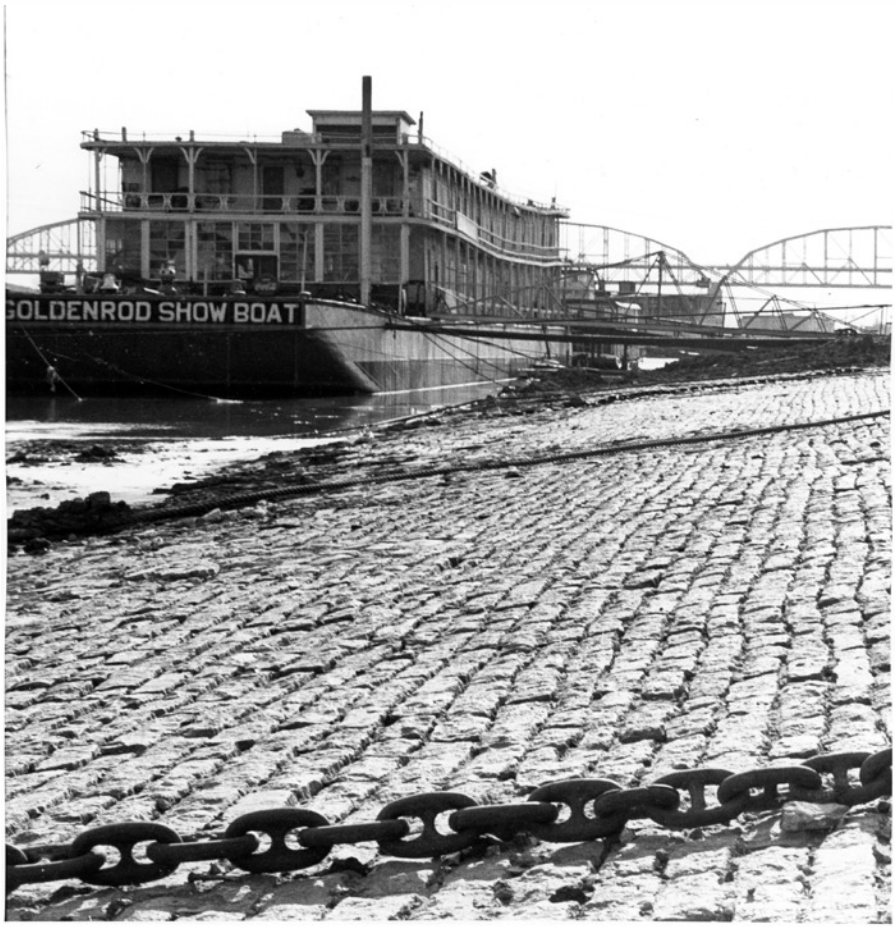
Our heroes, Frank Pierson (left) and Don Franz, and maiden rescued from villainous fate.

always triumphs as their film companions.

Pierson says, in fact, that melodrama was a latecomer to showboat entertainment. The Menkes, he relates, operated seven showboats bringing a variety of entertainment to the river folk. A showboat would feature an orchestra, or a band, or a minstrel show or some variety entertainment.

"They were counterparts of the traveling circus. They started offering drama in the late 20's and early 30's to compete with the movie houses which were drawing away their business. The term 'old time melodrama,' which we still bill, is not really very specific. For us it must mean a show that will evoke audience participation. The classic melodrama, 'The Drunkard,' was written in the 1790's, but 'Little Nell' was written by Captain Billy Bryan in the 1930's. Our current show, 'Crook Meets Crook,' was written about 1926, and one of the Goldenrod's most successful productions, a comedy called 'Hamlet and

1963 - Goldenrod restoration continues.



1960 - Goldenrod Showboat

Levee Moorings

1965 - Goldenrod Showboat "Grand Re-Opening"

1965 - Showboat Reunion: Capt Menke, Kathy Nolan

May 1965 - Goldenrod Showboat Grand Re-Opening

Goldenrod Showboat Grand Re-opening, May 1965

1965 - Blanche Forbes, Goldenrod Showboat leading actress since 1937.

1965 - John Gazzoli and Blanche Forbes "Listen to the Mocking Bird"

1965 - A Goldenrod Showboat Wild-West Melodrama

1965 - Complimentary ticket for melodrama

1965 - Mystery on the Goldenrod Stage

THE
Rag Time Review

Special Issue Summer, 1965 | Vol. 4 No. 3A | St. Louis, Mo. Bicentennial

GOLDENROD SHOWBOAT PRESENTS BICENTENNIAL RAGTIME MUSIC FESTIVAL ON ST. LOUIS RIVERFRONT, WEEKEND OF AUGUST 13-15

Musical Greats of the Nation Featured with "St. Louis Ragtimers" Band in Nite Performances Fri. & Sat., Matinee Sat., & Special "On the Levee" Concert Sun.; Ragtime and Classic Jazz.

Ragtime — the foot-tapping music that flourished under St. Louis leadership during the city's glorious steamboat and turn-of-the-century days — highlights a unique musical treat on the weekend of August 13th through 15th, as an official St. Louis Bicentennial public program on the levee at the Gateway Arch.

GOLDENROD SHOWBOAT — air conditioned home of old-time melodrama, and saloon-deck haunt of St. Louis Ragtimers.

Free Bicentennial Concert Sunday, Aug. 15, 3 p.m., On the Levee Climaxes Ragtime Festival

1965 - Goldenrod's 'First Annual Ragtime Festival' August 13-15

1966 - Great Goldenrod stage and cast of characters.

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RESTAURANTS & THEATRE
SHOWBOAT LANDING ST. LOUIS LEVEE SOUTH OF WASHINGTON AVENUE.
The Showboat's new *Paddlewheeler Restaurant* on the Becky Thatcher features charbroiled steaks, thick juicy prime rib, and fresh seafood from the rivers and the seas. Serving every evening, including Sunday, with entertainment in the bar.
In the Theatre of the *Showboat Goldenrod*, hilarious old time melodrama is presented Friday and Saturday nights. The St. Louis Ragtimers are in the barroom.
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4th Annual Ragtime Festival

Goldenrod Showboat June 21-22,1968

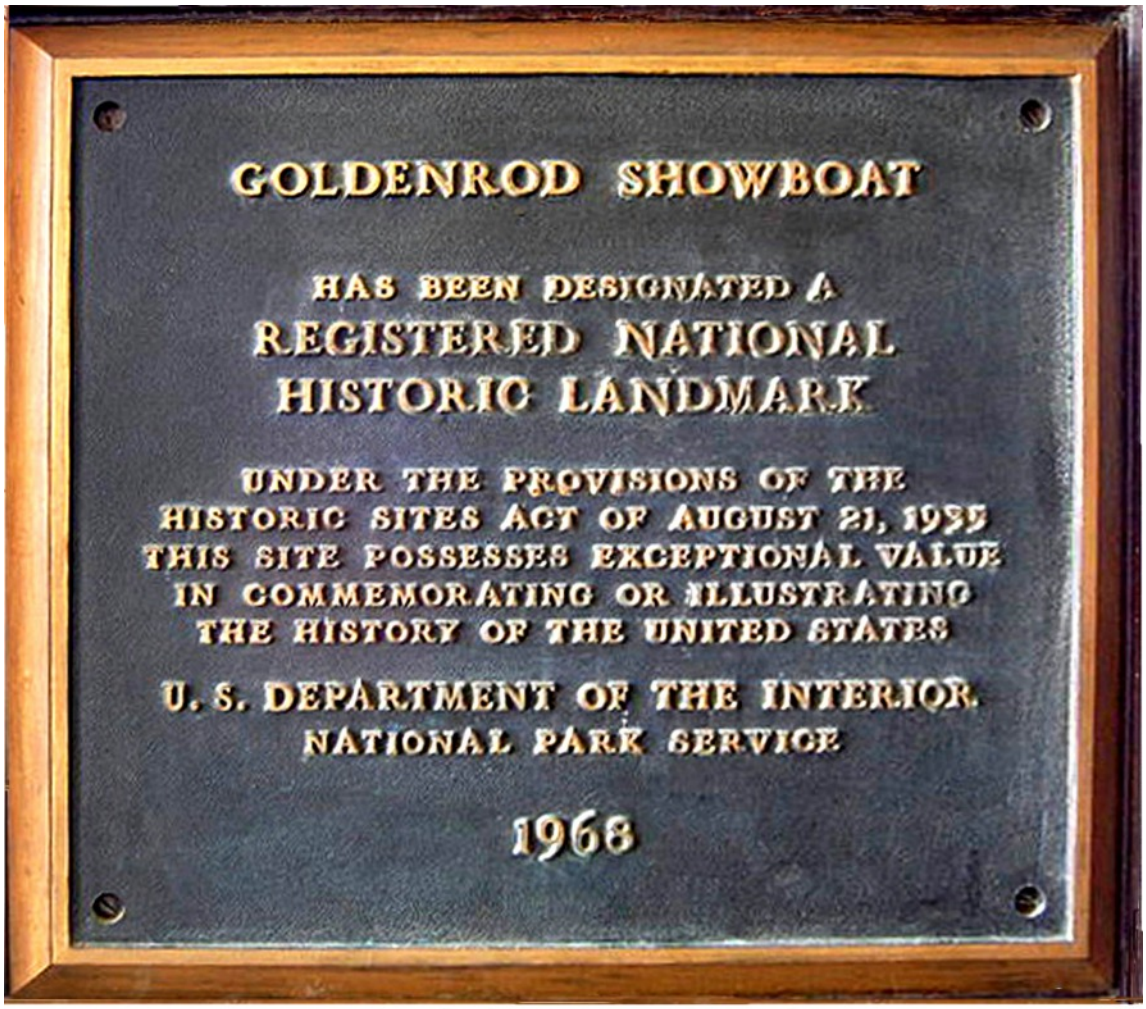
DEDICATION CEREMONY

GOLDENROD SHOWBOAT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1968

Registered National Historic Landmark

U. S. Department of the Interior



1968 - Goldenrod Showboat
National Historic Landmark

1968 - Opera Theater of St. Louis
Summer Season

1968 - Goldenrod 4th Annual Festival
'Dawn of the Century' Orchestra

1969 - Salty Dogs, Goldenrod, Captain's Dining Room

1970 - Julie and David Eisenhower Reception

St. Louis Ragtimers beat out Maple Leaf Rag on their home ground, the Goldenrod Showboat. On piano is Trebor Jay Tichenor; banjo, Al Stricker; and (partly hidden), Bill Mason, cornet; Don Franz, tuba. Franz is part owner of the Goldenrod.

RAGTIME on the RIVER

Paul Ockrassa

1970 - Goldenrod, Main Deck Bar

BOILERROOM
BAR
the St. Louis Ragtimers
DINING ROOM
OPEN AT 5:P.M. DAILY
SUN. 4:P.M.

1970 - Jim Cullum's Jazz Band, San Antonio

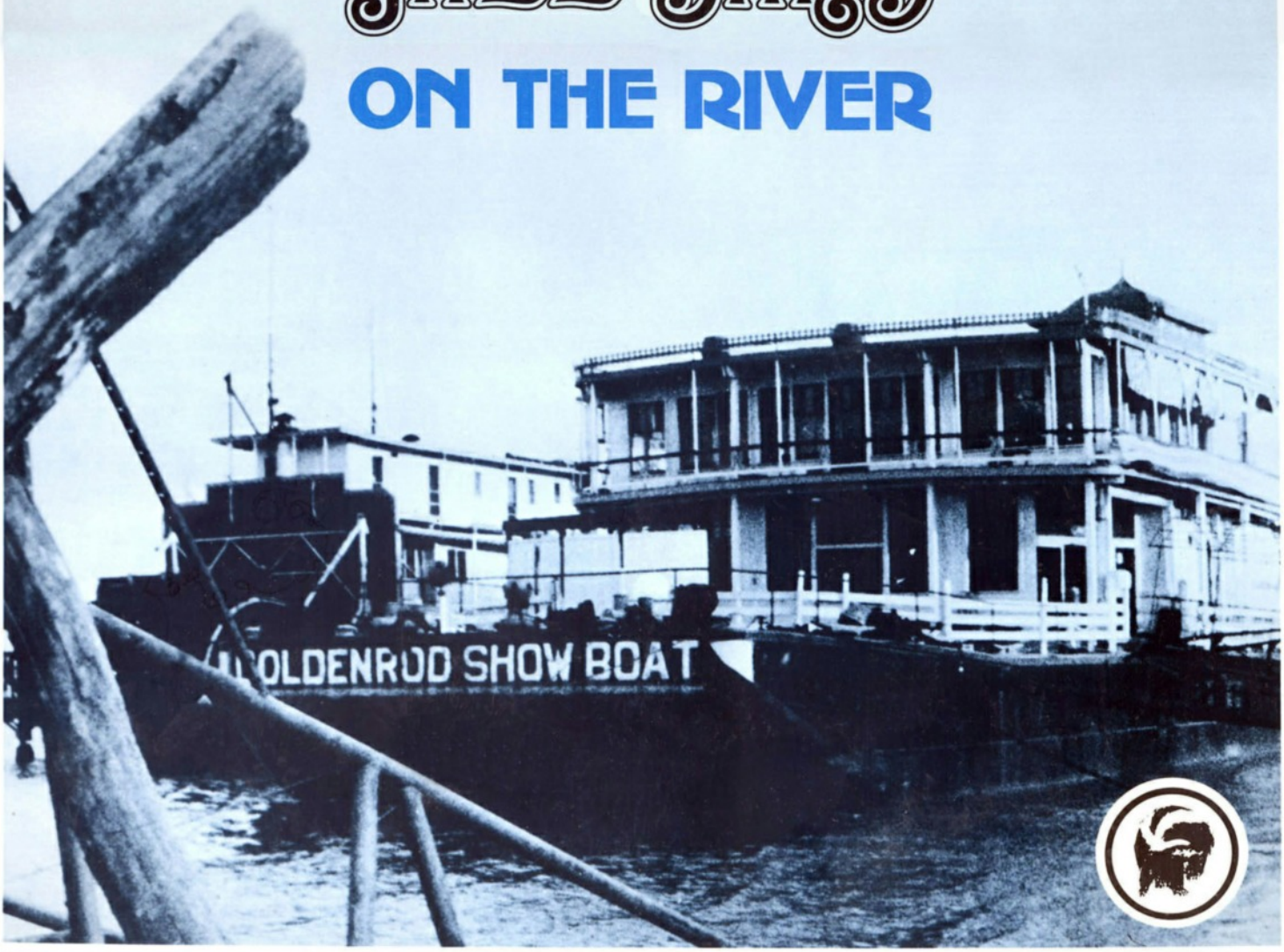
Jim Cullum Sr., of the Happy Jazz Band of San Antonio, Tex., plays in front of a paddle wheel that once churned the waters of the Mississippi. The band played recently at the National Ragtime Festival.

1972

1973 - Billboard on I-40 near Forest Park

THE NEW BLACK EAGLE JAZZ BAND

ON THE RIVER



1973 - Recorded aboard the Goldenrod
9th Annual Ragtime Festival

1974 - 'Mother's Boys'

10th Annual Goldenrod Ragtime Festival

1976 - NBC 'Today Show' broadcast under the Arch St Louis Ragtimers, playing "Music of Missouri"

everyday

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1976

'Today' Show In St. Louis To Spotlight Missouri

By JOHN J. ARCHIBALD
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

JOE GARAGIOLA headed for his old neighborhood, The Hill, when he arrived in St. Louis last week for some "Today" show filming, but Jim Hartz went looking for Sportsman's Park. The State of Missouri will be the theme for the early-morning program this Friday on KSD-TV.

It was logical for Garagiola to return to The Hill, where Joe played sandlot ball and prepared for a career as a major league catcher and then a TV personality. Hartz's interest in baseball in St. Louis came to attention when the "Today" co-host mentioned that a few hours after he arrived here he drove north on Grand Boulevard looking for the site of the ballpark where the Cardinals and Browns once played.

"When I got to the Northside YMCA, I knew I was close," Hartz said. "Then I realized that the vacant field across the street was where the park had been.

"I grew up in Tulsa and came to St. Louis many, many times to see the Cardinals. When I was a kid, I rode here in a car with my older brothers and later when I was working for a Tulsa television station, I flew here with a friend in his plane."

Hartz and Garagiola did opening and closing segments of the program on the Goldenrod Showboat, with the St. Louis Ragtimers playing Scott Joplin music in the background. The Goldenrod was anchored next to the steamer Admiral and that, too, caused Hartz a moment of nostalgia.

"It's been 20 years since I've seen the Admiral," he said. "We often spent the evening there after going to a ball game."

Another musical feature on the "Today" show will be a performance by St. Louis's Robert McFerrin, a former Metropolitan Opera star, who sang for the NBC crew after the Ragtimers had done their thing. McFerrin and the Ragtimers will be among the numerous participants in the Bicentennial Horizons of American Music and the Performing Arts (labeled BHAM) that will take place near the Gateway Arch June 14-July 4.

One of the lengthiest features on Friday's "Today" show is likely to be Garagiola's visit to The Hill.

A camera crew followed Joe as he stood in front of the house in which he lived, 5446 Elizabeth Avenue, and then crossed over to Yogi Berra's former home, 5447 Elizabeth.

Jim Hartz (left) and Joe Garagiola aboard the Goldenrod Showboat last week as they taped a segment of the "Today" show, which will be telecast Friday morning on KSD-TV.

Post-Dispatch Photo By SCOTT DINE

1976 - Goldenrod Showboat, July 4th
St. Louis Riverfront

1976 - The Ragtimers (Now, Seriously !)

1978 - Jam Session, Goldenrod 5th Annual Festival

1974 - Al Stricker
Bill Mason, Glenn Meyer
Ed McKee, Don Franz, Trebor Tichenor

1980 - The Original Salty Dogs [Album Cover]
Annual Ragtime Festival attendance: over 90%

THE ST. LOUIS RAGTIMERS

1987 - Goldenrod moves north of Eads Bridge

1987 - 23rd Annual Ragtime Festival.
Goldenrod moored North of Eads Bridge.

1988 - 24th Annual Ragtime Festival
Many 'perfect attendance' fans.

1989 - Goldenrod's 25th Ragtime Festival

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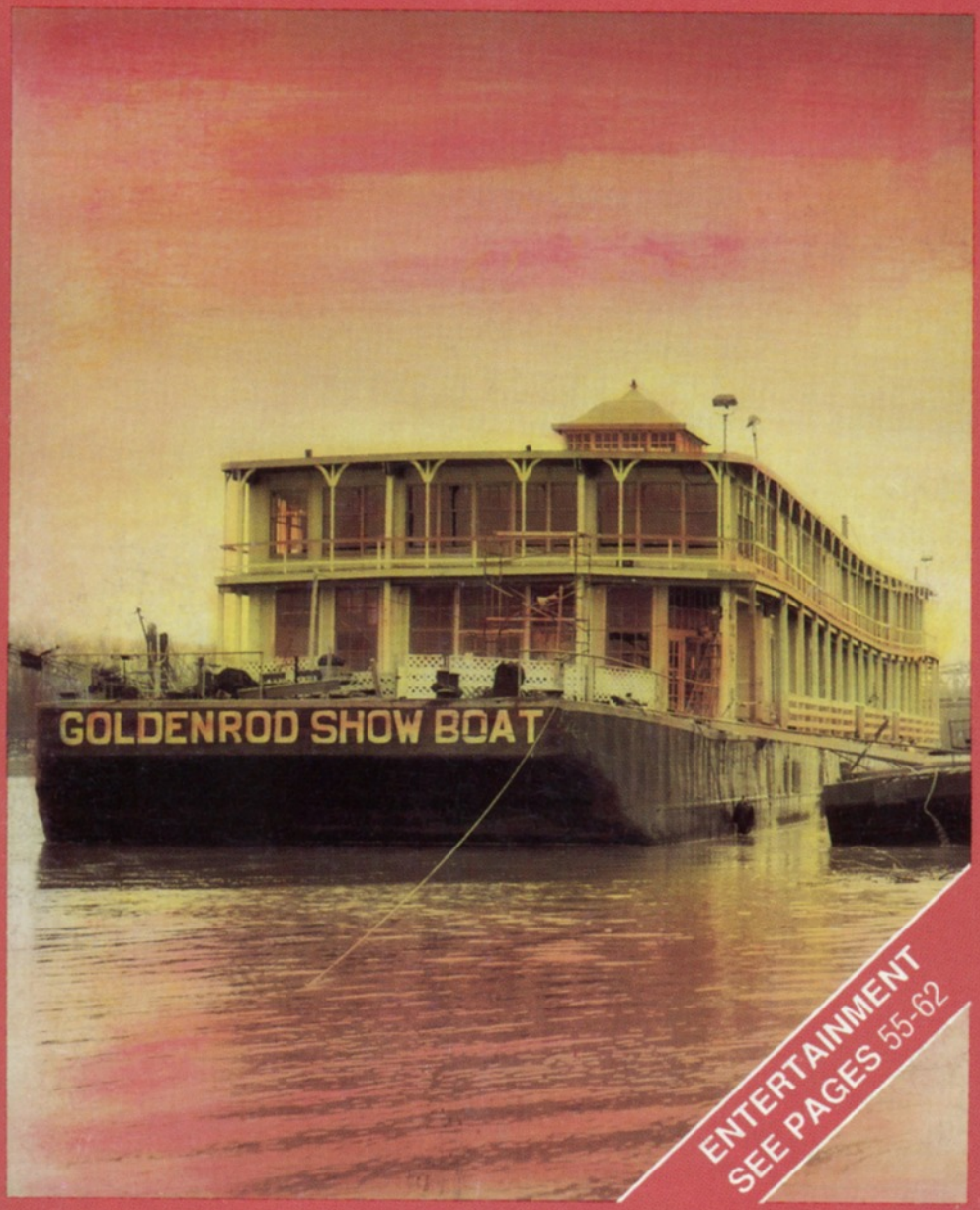

ENTERTAINMENT
SEE PAGES 55-62

1993 - Goldenrod Model (Phil Kiely)

1993 - Goldenrod

Showboat, Saint Charles MO

Goldenrod Ragtime and Classical Jazz Festival

Butch Thompson
The St. Louis Ragtimers
The Tiger Rag Forever Jazz Band
Dave Roberts
Con Sortium

The Elite Syncopators
Jean Kitrell Trio and Band
Talk of the Town
Dave Jasen
Jim Gavan

The Goldenrod Ragtime and Classical Jazz Festival has been revived! The Goldenrod Showboat, now moored in Historic St. Charles, will once again host this unique music festival that features local as well as national performers. This festival will truly bring out the best of the best of Rag and Classical Jazz musicians.

Friday, September 4th	***6 p.m.- 12 a.m.***
Saturday, September 5th	***10 a.m.- 3 p.m. (Matinee)***
	6 p.m.- 12 a.m.

1993 - Goldenrod Showboat
Missouri River, St Charles

1995 - 34th Festival, Lew, Mary, Tom, Mush (St Charles).

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1996 - Goldenrod Showboat 32nd RagFest
Lew and Mary Green 'Captain's Dining Room'

1996 - Ragtimers record their sixth CD

1995 - Goldenrod Showboat 30th Ragtime Festival

This weekend is the right time for ragtime

33rd annual festival takes place aboard Goldenrod

By Ronnie Roy

Labor Day weekend marks the last big party of the summer, and at the Goldenrod Showboat, they party with the sounds of Scott Joplin.

The 33rd Annual Goldenrod Ragtime Festival opened last night and runs through Saturday on the historic showboat on the St. Charles Riverfront.

Among the performers tonight and Saturday will be Tiger Rag Forever Jazz Band, the Consortium, St. Louis Ragtimers, St. Louis Stompers, John Hancock, Dave Majchrzak, Trebor Tichenor, Mary Ann Schulte, Jim Gover, Pat Joyce and Richard Egan.

The first Ragtime festival was staged in 1965 when the Goldenrod was moored near Laclede's Landing on the St. Louis Riverfront. Don Franz was one of the owners of the showboat at the time and a member of the St. Louis Ragtimers.

"The idea originated with our pianist, Trebor Tichenor," Franz said. "He's a scholar and researcher in ragtime and teaching a course in ragtime at Washington University."

Tichenor felt the Goldenrod was the ideal place for such an event, Franz said. The showboat was built in 1909, during the vintage age of ragtime. Showboats like the Goldenrod had a big influence in spreading the sound.

"Much of the music came up river on those boats," said John Hegedus of the Tiger Rag Forever Jazz Band. "Scott Joplin was in St. Louis at that time and St. Louis was the focal point of much of that music at that time."

The first festival consisted of Friday night, Saturday matinee and Saturday evening shows. It expanded each year and by the mid-70s was running a full week, with performers often leaving the boat after the show to play on the levee until 3 or 4 a.m.

"In the '70s it was in full swing, mainly due to the popularity of the movie 'The Sting,' Hegedus said.

A number of performers have been drawn to the festival, including Eubie Blake and talent from as far away as Canada, England and Japan.

The festival has been an annual event except for two years — 1990 when the boat moved from St. Louis to St. Charles; and 1993, due to the flood.

The festival has run into some rough waters since moving to St. Charles. Attendance has declined and the event has been cut back. Performances will be offered on the Captain's Deck, the front deck and the left barge, but the main theater will continue to present the musical comedy, "Swingtime Canteen."

One reason cited for the decline is the date. The festival originally took place in June, but was moved to Labor Day weekend when the boat moved to St. Charles.

"There are a lot of festivals this weekend and it's very difficult to compete," said Yoshi Yamamoto, general manager for the Goldenrod.

Chief among the competition is the Big Muddy Blues and Roots festival, a free event taking place at the Ragtime Festival's old home on Laclede's Landing.

In response, the Goldenrod has cut prices on the festival this year. Tickets are $12 for Friday or Saturday evening, with a $9 additional charge for the buffet. Last year tickets were $25.

Yamamoto expects more than a thousand people will attend the event. He is considering seeing about moving the festival to a less competitive weekend next year.

"I made a commitment I would do this thing," he said.

Those involved in the festival are certain it has a future.

"When we started we were the only ragtime festival in the country, now the West Coast is loaded with them," Franz said. "There are 30 festivals in California alone."

"Much of the playing we do locally is to maintain and keep vibrant this music. It's lasted," Hegedus said.

The Goldenrod Ragtime Festival runs from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. tonight and Saturday. For tickets or more information, call (636) 946-2020.

The Tiger Rag Forever Jazz Band (above) and the St. Louis Ragtimers (cover) will be among the performers at the 33rd Annual Goldenrod Ragtime Festival.

Ragtime Festival performance schedule

Here is the schedule of performers for the 33rd Annual Ragtime Festival at the Goldenrod Showboat:

Friday

Captain's Deck
Tiger Rag Forever – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
The Consortium – 7:30-8 p.m.
Tiger Rag Forever – 8-9 p.m.
St. Louis Ragtimers – 9-10 p.m.
Tiger Rag Forever – 10-11 p.m.

Left Barge
John Hancock – 6:45-7:15 p.m.
Dave Majchrzak – 7:15-7:45 p.m.
John Hancock – 7:45-8:15 p.m.
Trebor Tichenor – 8:15-8:45 p.m.
The Consortium – 8:45-9:15 p.m.
Mary Ann Schulte – 9:15-9:45 p.m.
The Consortium – 9:45-10:15 p.m.
Jim Gover – 10:15-10:45 p.m.

Front Deck
St. Louis Stompers – 6-7 p.m.
St. Louis Ragtimers – 7-8 p.m.
St. Louis Stompers – 8-9 p.m.
Pat Joyce – 9-9:30 p.m.
St. Louis Stompers – 9:30-10:30 p.m.
St. Louis Ragtimers – 10:30-11:30 p.m.

Saturday

Captain's Deck
St. Louis Stompers – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Mary Ann Schulte – 7:30-8 p.m.
Tiger Rag Forever – 8-9 p.m.
St. Louis Ragtimers – 9-10 p.m.
St. Louis Stompers – 10-11 p.m.

Left Barge
Jim Gover – 6:30-7 p.m.
The Consortium – 7-7:30 p.m.
Richard Egan – 7:30-8 p.m.
Trebor Tichenor – 8:15-8:45 p.m.
Richard Egan – 8:45-9:15 p.m.
Dave Majchrzak – 9:15-9:45 p.m.
The Consortium – 9:45-10:15 p.m.

Front Deck
Tiger Rag Forever – 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Richard Egan – 6:30-7 p.m.
St. Louis Ragtimers – 7-8 p.m.
St. Louis Stompers – 8-9 p.m.
The Consortium – 9-9:30 p.m.
Tiger Rag Forever – 9:30-10:30 p.m.
St. Louis Ragtimers – 10:30-11:30 p.m.

Journal photo by BRAD HOHENSTREET

The St. Louis Ragtimers are Don Franz (left), bass tuba; Trebor Tichenor, piano; Bill Mason, cornet; and Al Stricker, banjo. They are playing in the top dining room of the Goldenrod Showboat.

Traditions

Jazz Fest to start anew while recalling the old

By M.J. Trask
Staff writer

When the city bought the Goldenrod Showboat a couple of years ago, St. Charles apparently obtained the rights to another popular attraction.

After an absence of two years, the Goldenrod Ragtime and Classical Jazz Festival is being revived. The festival will be held on the showboat during Labor Day weekend.

For 25 years, from 1965 to 1989, the festival was an annual event on the Goldenrod when the boat was moored at the St. Louis riverfront. During those years, the St. Louis Ragtimers served as the house band on the boat and played at every ragtime festival there.

"We do them in quarter-of-a-century blocks," said Don Franz, the band's tuba player.

The Ragtimers again will be one of the featured attractions during this year's festival. Recently, members of the band gathered at the boat to talk with a reporter.

The band was formed in 1961 and has been playing together ever since, said Al Stricker, who plays the banjo. The band played in the old Gaslight Square district in St. Louis until 1964, he said.

"We haven't changed a bit" in 31 years, Stricker said.

The band members said they are enthusiastic about the revival of the ragtime festival.

"One of the things that makes the festival great is the Goldenrod itself," said Trebor Jay Tichenor, the band's pianist. "There's no other festival that has this atmosphere."

Just what is ragtime music?

"It's basically piano music that evolved in this area," Stricker said.

Trebor said ragtime is meant to be played the way the composer wrote it. With jazz, "you take a tune and improvise on it," Tichenor said.

Ragtime has been around since before the turn of the century, Tichenor said. "It became a national craze at the turn of the century" and was very popular when played at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, he said.

"It was considered risque music at that time," Stricker said. Which didn't prevent President Theodore Roosevelt from becoming a fan, he said.

Even though ragtime has been here for a while, its future looks good, said band members.

"There's an incredible amount of contemporary ragtime being done," Tichenor said.

And just how long do the St. Louis Ragtimers plan to play? Bill Mason, who plays cornet for the band, had a simple answer: "Till we drop."

GOLDENROD SHOWBOAT
theatre, as seen from stage

JAZZ
on the river

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OUR 58TH YEAR
1951-2009

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

HAPPY 100TH OLD GIRL!!

1962 - Capt Menke's loyal Deck-hand, Harry Kelly